

REMARKS

Claims 1-12, 14-16 and 18-20 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-4 are amended and claims 13 and 17 are canceled. Claims 1-4 are independent.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections

Claims 1-12, 14-16, and 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Surlekar. Applicant respectfully traverses.

With regard to independent claim 1, Applicant asserts that Surlekar fails to disclose a data output buffer for transferring the internal signals externally from the integrated circuit device through data input/output pads, the data input/output pads being shared by the internal signals and the data as in claim 1. Instead, Applicant asserts that Surlekar's output of data through its Data Output Buffer 16 and Data Out Register 17 is different from the signals for controlling internal operations as recited in independent claim 1. The Surlekar data is data that is stored in a memory, retrieved, and then compared as disclosed at Col. 2, lines 37-44. The Surlekar data is not used for controlling internal operations. Further, Surlekar does not disclose pads that are shared by internal signals and data. Thus, Surlekar fails to disclose a data output buffer for transferring the internal signals externally from the integrated circuit device through data input/output pads, the data input/output pads being shared by the internal signals and the data as recited in claim 1.

With regard to independent claims 2-4, Applicant asserts that claims 2-4 include similar features to claim 1 and are allowable at least for the reasons stated for claim 1.

With regard to dependent claims 5-12, 14-16, and 18-20, Applicant asserts that they are allowable for their own merits and at least because they depend from at least one of independent claims 1-4, which the Applicant believes have been shown to be allowable. Accordingly,

Applicant respectfully requests that the 35 U.S.C. § 102 rejection of claims 1-12, 14-16, and 18-20 be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 1-12, 14-16, and 18-20 are patentable, and that the application as a whole is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

In the event that any matters remain at issue in the application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 668-8000 in the Northern Virginia area, for the purpose of a telephonic interview.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.

By

John A. Castellano
Reg. No. 35,094
P.O. Box 8910
Reston, VA 20195
(703) 668-8000

JAC/RFS